(Figure in '000 tonnes)

Year	Rajmahal Grade-F	Raniganj Grade-B & C	Mugma Grade-C, D & E	Total
1998-1999	3370	0	37	3407
1999-2000	3274	98	187	3559
2000-2001	3931	166	242	4339

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NTPC, Kahalgaon is a pit-head power station designed to use low grade coal of Rajmahal project and had been granted linkage from there. NTPC, Kahalgaon has requested for supply of additional quantity of coal from Raniganj/Asansol coalfield to meet their requirement due to higher consumption and generation.

Rationalisation of officers and staff strength at CIL Offices

1836. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for the rationalisation of officers and other staff strength at various offices of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the target fixed for the proposed rationalisation is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has introduced the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in E.C.L. and B.C.L in 1997-98 and C.C.L. in 2000-01 for

rationalisation of officers and other staff strength at various offices of Coal India Limited. The target are fixed every year for these companies. The target fixed during last four years are given as under:—

Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
VRS Target	4800	7600	6600	8000	11500
Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crores)	80	160	165	180	250 (Provisioned)
Amount Utilised (Rs. in Crores)	75.33	151.03	158.51	140.02	
Persons Retired	4312	8063	7703	6206	

Two tier freight classification for transportation of coal by Railways

1837. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Coal Ministry is pressing for a two tier freight classification for transportation of coal by Railways to make, domestic coal competitive;

(b) if so, whether the Coal Ministry has already asked the Ministry of Railways to look into the proposal which calls for a reduction of freight rates of coal transported to destinations beyond 450 kilometers;

(c) if so, to what extent the Railway Ministry has considered the request of Coal Ministry; and

(d) by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Coal has not asked Ministry of Railways for two-tier freight classification for transportation of coal. However, Ministry of Coal have addressed Ministry of Railways on several occasions to